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President: Mr. Indalecio LIEVANO (Colombia).

The meeting was called to order at 11.15 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 16

Election of eighteen members of the Economic and Social Council (*concluded*)\*

1. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from Spanish*): As representatives will recall, at its 50th plenary meeting on 10 November 1978, the General Assembly decided to postpone the election of one member of the Economic and Social Council.

2. The vacancy remaining to be filled is for group C, that of the Latin American States. We have held three restricted ballots and one unrestricted ballot, all of which have been inconclusive. In accordance with the rules of procedure, we shall proceed to a second unrestricted ballot.

3. May I remind representatives that they have the right to vote for any country from group C, except, of course, those countries which are already members of the Council and those which have been elected for a term beginning on 1 January 1979. To make this quite clear, I shall state the names of those countries which cannot be voted for in the present balloting: Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Jamaica, Mexico, Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela.

4. I now give the floor to the representative of Cuba.

5. Mr. ROA KOURI (Cuba) (*interpretation from Spanish*): I have the honour to announce that my Government has

decided to postpone its candidature for the Economic and Social Council and accordingly withdraws its candidature in favour of Barbados.

6. I should like to express our sincerest thanks and deepest appreciation to all those States that voted in favour of the Cuban candidacy. At the same time, I should like to ask all those which supported our candidature to support that of Barbados, that friendly Caribbean country.

7. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from Spanish*): Ballot papers will now be distributed.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Georgiev (Bulgaria) and Mr. Yao (Ivory Coast) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

8. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from Spanish*): I propose to suspend the meeting while the ballots are being counted.

The meeting was suspended at 11.30 a.m. and resumed at 12.15 p.m.

9. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from Spanish*): The result of the voting is as follows:

Group C

Number of ballot papers:	128
Invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	128
Abstentions:	2
Number of members voting:	126
Required majority:	84

Number of votes obtained:

Barbados .....	121
Cuba .....	5

Having obtained the required two-thirds majority, Barbados was elected a member of the Economic and Social Council for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 1979 (decision 33/311).<sup>1</sup>

10. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from Spanish*): I give the floor to the representative of Barbados.

11. Mr. CARTER (Barbados): I should like to express the Barbados Government's appreciation of the kind and friendly gesture of the Cuban Government in withdrawing

<sup>1</sup> See also the 43rd meeting, para. 23, and the 50th meeting, para. 17.

\* Resumed from the 50th meeting.

its candidature in favour of Barbados and in requesting those countries which had supported it in previous ballots to give their support to Barbados in this morning's ballot. The Barbados Government hopes that the Cuban candidature, which has been postponed in favour of the election of Barbados today to the Economic and Social Council, will receive the support of the Assembly when it is presented again. We sincerely hope that those which supported us in today's ballot—and we should like to thank them very much—will, in turn support the Cuban candidature at that time.

12. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from Spanish*): I wish to congratulate the countries which have been elected members of the Economic and Social Council, and I thank the tellers for their assistance.

### AGENDA ITEM 29

#### Co-operation between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity: report of the Secretary-General

13. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from Spanish*): I call on the representative of Chad, who wishes to introduce draft resolution A/33/L.9.

14. Mr. DESSANDE (Chad) (*interpretation from French*): Since the twenty-seventh regular session of the General Assembly we have seen a rapid and continuous development of co-operation between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity [OAU]. That co-operation, of course, is based on the conviction expressed at the Addis Ababa Summit Conference of Independent African States, in May 1963 by the African Heads of State and Government that the United Nations is an effective tool for maintaining peace and international security and for fostering economic and social equality among nations. But it is also supported by the similarity of the goals and principles of the two Organizations, that is: the triumph of human dignity, the reign of justice and freedom, the establishment of peace and security and the development of international global co-operation leading to the full flowering and prosperity of the world community.

15. This co-operation between the United Nations and the OAU has now reached such a degree of development that it covers the most varied sectors, involving almost all the specialized agencies in the United Nations system, as we see from the Secretary-General's report in document A/33/253 and Corr.1 and 2.

16. I do not intend to make lengthy comments on the report, although it is an excellent one. I simply wish to say here that the report stresses in particular the action undertaken jointly by the two Organizations to rid the African continent of such scourges as racism, colonialism, poverty and natural disasters.

17. Such co-operation can only be encouraged, since the whole of mankind has a stake in this. That is why the African group of States, which I have the honour of representing at this rostrum, is submitting draft resolution A/33/L.9, entitled "Co-operation between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity", which is sponsored by all the 49 African States that are members of the United Nations.

18. In itself, the draft is not original. Basically it reproduces, at least as regards the questions of the peace, freedom, dignity, hatred and poverty of mankind, the substance of resolution 32/19, which was adopted on 11 November 1977 by the General Assembly.

19. In view of the problems confronting Africa at the present time, I wish to draw the attention of the General Assembly to operative paragraphs 4, 7, 12, 13 and 14 of the draft resolution, which I hope will be adopted by consensus.

20. Finally, it is my duty to announce that, after consultations with the delegations of certain friendly countries within the context of the solidarity and consensus which has always existed in regard to adopting these draft resolutions, the sponsors have accepted some changes in operative paragraphs 6 and 14. Those changes have been incorporated in draft resolution A/33/L.9/Rev.1 and we hope that, in the light of those changes, the draft resolution will be adopted unanimously.

21. The new paragraph 6 reads as follows:

"Reaffirms the determination of the United Nations to work closely with the Organization of African Unity towards the establishment of the new international economic order".

The new operative paragraph 14 will read as follows:

"Reiterates its invitation to the specialized agencies and other organizations concerned within the United Nations system to continue and expand their co-operation with the Organization of African Unity and, through it,"—and this is where we have another change—"their humanitarian assistance to the liberation movements recognized by the Organization of African Unity".

22. Mr. EL-SIDDIK (Sudan) (*interpretation from Arabic*): As Chairman of the Assembly of the OAU at its fifteenth extraordinary session, the Sudan had the honour this year to act as host to the July Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the OAU in Khartoum and became aware of the great responsibility incumbent upon it in the consideration of the affairs of that great continent. The Sudan took note of the fact that the African countries at their last meeting in Khartoum expressed their concern to assume their responsibilities not only with regard to the African region but also to international peace and security as a whole. On that basis the Sudan adopted an African and international policy with a view to achieving, in unity and solidarity, a solution to the conflicts in Africa.

23. As the General Assembly is aware, the African continent is experiencing a series of explosive conflicts that are the sequels of colonialism and which still persist as a sickness that international society should help to eradicate. Similarly, it has witnessed military and political forms of intervention. Among the other sequels of colonialism, mention must be made of the economic backwardness from which developing countries suffer. Hence co-operation between this international Organization and the OAU is necessary in order to prevent interference and intervention being carried out by foreign forces on the pretext of

assisting poor countries, thereby making the continent the focus of military and economic conflicts.

24. Africa is suffering from immense economic problems such as drought, desertification, food deficits and a lack of education and sanitation services.

25. My country considers that the various bodies within the United Nations should co-operate with the OAU and work together to meet the needs of the African continent. My delegation considers, moreover, that solid close links should be established between the two organizations, in order to permit the continuation and expansion of their efforts to implement their resolutions, so that they may provide an effective solution to the problems of the African continent.

26. In making this appeal, my country's delegation takes into account the long list of international problems facing Africa. These have still not been resolved because of the intransigence of the imperialist, colonialist and racist régimes in southern Africa and their pursuit of racist policies in Zimbabwe and Namibia.

27. My country therefore once again appeals from this rostrum, in conformity with the statement of the Chairman of the OAU at the 10th meeting of the General Assembly on 27 September last, for all efforts to be made to ensure the closest co-operation between the two Organizations. My country's delegation considers that there is no doubt that co-operation between these two Organizations will facilitate and speed up a solution to the many problems which have not yet been resolved.

28. The Sudanese delegation reiterates the hope of the African countries to see co-operation between the various international bodies and reaffirms the desire of the African continent to see this international Organization become a place where the aspirations and the wishes of all the peoples of the world can be made a reality.

29. Mr. HUSSEN (Somalia): My Government has always placed the highest value on close co-operation between the United Nations and the OAU, and I am happy to note, from the Secretary-General's report on the subject [A/33/253], that this co-operation continues to be developed throughout the United Nations system.

30. The collaboration of the two Organizations is most evident, of course, as they pursue the common goals of eliminating colonialism and racism in southern Africa and of reducing the gap between the developed world and the developing countries.

31. The fruitful co-operation between the world Organization and the regional organization in these and other spheres of activity is, we are glad to say, firmly established, and the task for the future is mainly one of building on the existing foundation.

32. My delegation would like to express here its appreciation of the active interest shown by the Secretary-General, Mr. Kurt Waldheim, in African affairs and of his vigorous efforts directed towards the solution of African problems. His encouragement of greater contributions to the United

Nations Trust Fund for South Africa, the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa and the United Nations Fund for Namibia are further evidence of his concern for the oppressed people of Africa.

33. The current phase of the international campaign to eliminate racism and colonialism from southern Africa is characterized by strong emphasis on support for the liberation movements recognized by the OAU that are carrying on legitimate struggles by all means in their power, since all avenues for peaceful change have been closed to them.

34. The key role of these movements in the liberation of their countries and the duty of the international community to afford them strong support have been emphasized by several international conferences, notably the International Conference in Support of the Peoples of Zimbabwe and Namibia, held in Maputo in May 1977, the World Conference for Action against *Apartheid*, held in Lagos in August 1977, and the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, held in Geneva in August this year. It has therefore been a most constructive development that United Nations political bodies, such as the Special Committee against *Apartheid*, the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, the United Nations Council for Namibia and the Commission on Human Rights, now work as a matter of course in close consultation with the leaders of the liberation movements and with the OAU Co-ordinating Committee for the Liberation of Africa.

35. The response of the specialized agencies to the needs of the liberation movements has been slower in its development, but we are gratified to see from the Secretary-General's report that the agencies are steadily increasing the scope and number of programmes planned specifically for the assistance of the liberation movement groups and that such programmes are being developed in collaboration with representatives of the OAU.

36. Among the initiatives that we have noted with particular interest are UNICEF plans to assist liberation movement groups in the front-line States of Zambia, Angola, Mozambique and the United Republic of Tanzania; the ILO vocational training courses for refugees of the liberation movements of Namibia and Zimbabwe; the FAO agricultural training programmes for Zimbabwean and other southern African refugees and the FAO contribution to the Nationhood Programme for Namibia; and the WHO Multinational Liberation Movement Training Centre in the United Republic of Tanzania for the instruction of medical assistants.

37. The efforts of UNDP to co-ordinate interagency planning for assistance to liberation movements in countries that act as hosts to these movements are especially commendable. We hope that UNDP will also be able to respond generously in support of a number of specialized agency programmes that have been submitted to it for financing.

38. Mention must also be made of the World Food Programme's substantial assistance to the South West Africa

People's Organization [SWAPO] and to the Patriotic Front and of the work of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. The refugee problems that have resulted from the situation in southern Africa are well known and the High Commissioner is responding well to the emergencies occasioned by the armed aggressions of the racist régimes of southern Africa.

39. The long campaign carried on by the United Nations and the OAU to free the oppressed people of southern Africa from racist oppression is in its final stage, but this may prove to be the most difficult period of all and will certainly require the exertion of the most strenuous efforts by the two Organizations. We hope that the various bodies of the United Nations system will continue to increase the range and depth of their commitment to the liberation movements of southern Africa.

40. With regard to the achievement of a new world economic order in which the gap between the developed and the developing countries will be closed, it is natural that Africa, which comprises a large proportion of the world's developing countries, should be deeply involved in the tasks associated with this goal and should seek the closest co-operation with the United Nations system in the furtherance of common objectives.

41. The Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order [resolution 3202 (S-VI)] emphasizes the importance of regional economic integration, technical co-operation among developing countries, the transfer of technology from developed to developing nations, and the furtherance of the industrialization of the third world. The OAU's contacts with UNCTAD, ECA, UNIDO, UNDP and other organs of the United Nations system are of vital importance for the furtherance of these objectives in Africa. We note with satisfaction that these bodies are attempting to deal with the fundamental economic problems and the technical assistance projects that must be dealt with in the implementation of the Programme of Action. We believe, however, that there must be an even stronger commitment on the part of all concerned if significant change is to be effected.

42. Of course, co-operation between the OAU and the United Nations is not confined to questions of southern Africa or to the specifics of the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, but operates over a wide spectrum of activity.

43. The efforts of UNEP to promote the desertification action plan or the international telecommunications network clearly illustrate the range and practical value of co-operation between the United Nations and the OAU.

44. While we wish to see the various organs of the United Nations system intensify their efforts on behalf of the liberation movements and in support of development goals, we are conscious that co-operation between the United Nations and the OAU in all its forms is contributing to the political, economic and social stability of Africa.

45. A matter of great concern to my delegation, which I must mention, is the inadequate representation of the African continent at the higher levels of the executive

organs of the United Nations system. The OAU Council of Ministers, meeting in Khartoum in July this year, has again reaffirmed its desire to see African States Members of the United Nations adequately represented at the higher echelons of the Secretariat, as well as of the specialized agencies that are closely involved in the promotion of social justice and economic progress in Africa [see A/33/235 and Corr.1, annex I, CM/Res. 627 (XXXI)]. We hope that the Secretary-General and the directors of the specialized agencies will do all in their power to correct the long-standing inequity in this regard.

46. In conclusion, I should like to take this opportunity to call on all Member States to support the OAU in its firm opposition to the new policies of interference and aggression by external forces that have recently been directed against African States and peoples.

47. The peace and security of Africa are endangered by attempts to impose on purely African problems solutions inspired by external interests. The use of foreign mercenaries in these efforts is particularly threatening to African peace and security and should be strongly condemned by the international community.

48. We hope that Member States will give firm support to the solemn declaration made on this question by the OAU Council of Ministers at its thirty-first session that:

"... in all cases, the security of Africa is the concern of Africans only and ... no Power or group of Powers outside Africa is to interfere in this respect" [Ibid., CM/Res. 641 (XXXI)].

In respecting this position, States Members of the United Nations and of the OAU will be fulfilling obligations undertaken under the charters of the two organizations.

49. Mr. VERGAU (Federal Republic of Germany): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the nine countries members of the European Community.

50. The report of the Secretary-General [A/33/253] has given us a comprehensive picture of the various fields of co-operation between the OAU and a great number of specialized agencies of the United Nations system, ranging from the political problems of southern Africa to the protection of the environment and to highly specialized training programmes.

51. The nine countries members of the European Community support the role played by regional organizations in solving the world's problems, wherever possible. We think that the countries most directly concerned with a given political conflict or with certain economic, social or environmental problems should be encouraged by our world body to find solutions to those problems by co-operating, above all, among themselves.

52. The OAU represents almost a third of the membership of the United Nations. The countries members of the OAU have many social, economic and political problems in common. We fully support their efforts to strengthen their national independence in both the political and the economic fields, to keep their continent free from outside



interference, and to find speedy and peaceful solutions to the problems of southern Africa.

53. The countries members of the European Community seek relations of mutual confidence and close co-operation with every individual African country and with the community of African nations, represented by the OAU. We regard the OAU as an important partner, not only in matters concerning the African continent but, indeed, also in matters concerning the international community as a whole. We fully appreciate the role that the OAU is called upon to play in the realization of the goals and principles to which the United Nations is dedicated.

54. Mr. KHARLAMOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (*interpretation from Russian*): The question of co-operation between the United Nations and the OAU is examined at each session of the General Assembly. That very fact shows how much significance the Members of the United Nations attach to that co-operation.

55. Since establishing the OAU in 1963, the African Heads of State or Governments have expressed their aspirations to strengthen and support the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter and to fulfil all obligations flowing from it.

56. Now, co-operation between the United Nations and the OAU is being implemented in various spheres, promoting and implementing the noble aims which both Organizations have endorsed. The broadest and most fruitful co-operation has been evidenced during the implementation of the historic Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples [*resolution 1514 (XV)*], adopted on the initiative of our country. That co-operation is being successfully expanded and developed in the struggle for the total and complete elimination of colonialism, racism and *apartheid* from the continent of Africa.

57. In the Soviet Union people are familiar with and highly commend the activities of the OAU. Expressing the general interests and aspirations of independent Africa, that Organization has made and is still making a great contribution to the complete liberation of the peoples of the African continent from racism and colonialism and is greatly strengthening the independence of the young African States and enhancing the role they can play in international co-operation and in strengthening peace and security.

58. The great importance of the principles of the Charter of the OAU is clear: they reflect the strivings of the liberated countries of Africa to strengthen in practice the principles of sovereignty, equality, non-interference in the internal affairs of others, non-alignment, and solidarity with the struggle of peoples which are still oppressed.

59. Now Africa, as was noted by a recent speaker representing an African country, is going through a very crucial period in defining its fate. Certain international circles which obviously do not like the national and social progress of the peoples of Africa are pursuing a policy designed to increase tension in and around Africa. They are fanning fratricidal conflicts among African countries in

their own interests; they are trying to arrogate to themselves the right to control the destinies of the African peoples. The actions of such circles must be seen as an obvious attempt to put a brake at all costs on the progress of Africa, to topple the African countries from positions of non-alignment, to undermine the solidarity of the African countries and to break their unity through the pressure exerted on them by the forces of imperialism, racism and reaction. Trying by these methods to regain the role of masters of the fate of Africa these circles are openly gambling on divisions within the OAU.

60. We are firmly convinced, however, that the leaders of the independent African countries—as has happened many times in the past—will themselves find solutions to the problems facing them which correspond to the vital interests of that continent, without any outside interference.

61. Under the banner of an intensification of the struggle for the complete liberation of the African continent against the attack by neo-colonialism and imperialism, in July this year the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the OAU was held. The attempts of the enemies of African unity to side-track the discussion in that lofty and authoritative forum of the question of the complete elimination of colonialism, imperialism and *apartheid* completely failed.

62. In the decisions taken at that Assembly we find spelled out means of providing political, moral and material assistance to the national liberation movements recognized by the OAU. The decisions of that Assembly on major questions expressed an understanding of the great significance of that struggle against new imperialist attempts to enslave Africa and showed how important African solidarity is for the success of the cause of the freedom, independence and social progress of the peoples of that continent.

63. The Assembly received the news about attempts to railroad through the United States Congress a decision officially abolishing the sanctions against the illegal racist régime in Rhodesia as a defiance of independent Africa. In the resolution adopted on this matter a stricter observance of sanctions was called for. Support was reaffirmed for the armed liberation struggle of the peoples of Zimbabwe under the guidance of the Patriotic Front.

64. The Heads of State decisively condemned all attempts at imperialist interference in the internal affairs of the African continent. One of the most recent manifestations of such interference, which was severely condemned, was the use of mercenaries to destabilize progressive régimes and to subvert the revolutionary liberation process.

65. The attempts by the imperialists and forces connected with neo-colonialism to cast a shadow on the relations between independent African countries and the national liberation movements and the socialist countries were rebuffed at the Khartoum meeting.

66. The peoples of Africa and the peoples of the world well know that they can rely on the socialist countries and the Soviet Union in their struggle for freedom and independence.

67. The Soviet people see it as their noble international duty to promote in every way the historic renaissance, development and advancement of the liberated and independent peoples of Africa. In the message from the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR and the Council of Ministers of the USSR, to the participants in the fifteenth ordinary session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the OAU it was said:

"The Soviet Union welcomes attempts to strengthen and defend the Organization of African Unity. We are convinced of the final victory of the lofty principles of genuine African solidarity and the cause of the freedom, independence and social progress of Africa. The Soviet Union, true to the testament of the great Lenin, has always supported and will always support in future those just aspirations of the peoples of Africa."

68. Bearing in mind that the further activation and development of all-round relations between the United Nations and the OAU is becoming more and more significant for the strengthening of peace, freedom, the security of peoples, the expansion of international détente and the final elimination of colonialism and all its consequences, the Soviet Union, as heretofore, will give the necessary support in United Nations bodies to the efforts of the OAU and of the peoples of the African countries aimed at safeguarding the political and economic independence of those countries, increasing their constructive contribution to the resolution of all vital international problems and strengthening the cause of peace and general security.

69. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from Spanish*): We shall now take a decision on draft resolution A/33/L.9/Rev.1.

70. I call on the representative of Madagascar on a point of order.

71. Mr. RABETAFIKA (Madagascar) (*interpretation from French*): I apologize for speaking at this late stage but we had to hold consultations among several delegations. For reasons that I will explain later, some delegations, both

from Africa and from other continents, would like the vote to be postponed.

72. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from Spanish*): A postponement of the vote has been requested. If there is no objection, I propose to postpone the vote to a subsequent meeting, the date of which will be announced in due course.

*It was so decided.*

## AGENDA ITEM 27

### Question of Namibia:

- (a) Report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples;
- (b) Report of the United Nations Council for Namibia

### REQUEST FOR A HEARING ON THE QUESTION OF NAMIBIA

73. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from Spanish*): Before adjourning the meeting, I should like to inform the Assembly that consideration of agenda item 27 has been postponed at the request of the President of the United Nations Council for Namibia and the Chairman of the African group of States. It is now tentatively scheduled for early December. In the meantime, a request for a hearing relating to that item has been received from an organization.

74. I should like to propose to the Assembly that the Fourth Committee be requested to hold the hearing, in conformity with established practice, and to report thereon. May I take it that the General Assembly has no objection to that proposal?

*It was so decided.*

*The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.*